

Judge Lori K. Smith

Judge Smith was appointed to the King County Superior Court bench on January 24, 2012, by Governor Christine Gregoire. She assumed the position previously occupied by Steven Gonzalez, who was appointed to the Washington State Supreme Court on January 1st of that year.

Judge Smith started her legal career with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in its Family Support Division, which establishes paternity and sets, modifies and enforces obligations to pay child support. She became a senior deputy prosecuting attorney and later was made the Managing Attorney of the Kent Family Support Division office responsible for these support enforcement cases. She also handled occasional civil commitment, welfare fraud, and felony drug trials during her more than 20 years with the PAO.

In 2006, Judge Smith was named a King County Superior Court Commissioner, where she presided over domestic violence protection order hearings; family-law motions; and support modification, non-parental custody matters, dependency cases and civil commitment trials. She also served as a judge pro tem in family law trials.

Judge Smith earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Eastern Washington University before graduating from the University of Washington School of Law. She has been active in her community, volunteering as a YWCA Leaders in Progress Mentor, providing free legal help at the Angeline's Women's Shelter Legal Clinic, serving on the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorney's Support Enforcement Project Best Practices committee and helping to develop the King County Bar Association Kinship Care Program. As a judicial officer she has presented at many CLE's and at the Washington State Guardian ad Litem training, as well as serving on various court committees.